

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 14, 2006. Claims 1, 5 and 20 to 31 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 23, 25 and 30 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding Claim 1, the Examiner's comments starting in the middle of Page 2 of the Detailed Action indicate that the Examiner is unclear as to whether the "external device" recited in Claim 1 represents the printer or a separate device. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Applicants have removed the reference to the "external device." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Regarding Claims 6 and 7, both claims have been canceled without prejudice, disclaimer of subject matter or concession of the correctness of the rejection. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

Claims 1 to 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,947,158 (Kitamura) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0085942 (Narusawa). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a print system, in which a printer and a host computer, each of which includes a communication interface for transmitting and receiving information in real time, are

connected to each other to communicate with each other. The printer includes an operation panel for receiving an instruction from a user; an operation panel controller for, in response to receiving the instruction with the operation panel, generating print setting information notifying the host computer of an interruption event, and transmitting the print setting information; and a printer engine for performing printing. The host computer includes receiving means for receiving the print setting information from the printer; an interruption controller for detecting the interruption event notified by the printer; and display control means for causing a display apparatus to effect a print preview display in response to detecting the interruption event by the interruption controller.

Applicants submit that Kitamura and Narusawa, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the features of the print system of Claim 1. In particular, the print system of Claim 1 features a printer and a host computer, each of which includes a communication interface for transmitting and receiving information in real time, connected to each other so as to be in communication. They are arranged so that the printer generates and transmits to the host computer print setting information in response to receiving user's instruction with an operation panel and at the same time, notifies the host computer of an interruption event. Furthermore, the host computer, in response to receiving the interruption event from the printer, controls to cause a display apparatus to effect a print preview display corresponding to the received print setting information. That is, in the print system of Claim 1, the print setting information generated by the printer in accordance with the instruction received with the operation panel of the printer is transmitted to the host computer in real time, and the transmitted print setting information is reflected in the print preview display by the host computer in real time.

In contrast, Kitamura discloses a computer system 10 that sets a print condition, and effectuates a preview display of print data generated by a printer driver, in accordance with a set print condition. In addition, Kitamura discloses changing the print condition while displaying the preview display. However, as stated in the Office Action, Kitamura is entirely silent on functionality of the printer and therefore fails to teach that the computer system generates an interrupt event in response to operation of an operation panel of the printer as featured in amended independent Claim 1.

Furthermore, Narusawa discloses a printer which is arranged to read a print setting file recorded on a memory card and sets a print condition in accordance with the contents of the read print setting file. However, as with Kitamura, Narusawa also fails to teach that the printer notifies, in real time, a host computer connected to the printer of the print condition in response to setting or changing the print condition and at the same time, notifies the host computer of an interruption event.

Therefore, as neither Kitamura nor Narusawa disclose or suggest the feature of generating print setting information notifying the host computer of an interruption event, and transmitting the print setting information, it cannot be said the combination of Kitamura nor Narusawa discloses or suggests such a feature.

In light of the deficiencies of Narusawa and Kitamura as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 23, 25 and 30 are directed to a host computer, a method for a system and a method for a host computer, respectively, substantially in accordance with the system of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits

that Claims 23, 25 and 30 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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